

These four women are only a handful of those who deserve recognition for their contributions to America.

In 1981, Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week, which coincides with International Women's Day. At the request of the National Women's History Project, this was expanded to a month in 1987. I have always been proud to support this effort.

I hope that National Women's History Month will continue to help educate Americans about women's accomplishments and inspire more women to reach for the stars.

A SPEAKER FOR IDAHO

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I never had the opportunity to serve with Bruce Newcomb in the Idaho State Legislature, but having been privileged to get to know him, I very much would have enjoyed working with a man of his caliber.

Bruce is retiring from the Idaho House of Representatives at the end of the 2006 session, and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues in the legislature and his constituents in Idaho. Bruce has developed a reputation of being an honest and evenhanded speaker of the house whose sense of humor helps in tackling contentious issues and a heavy workload. In addition, he is a strong leader who is not afraid to make a strong stand when the situation calls for it.

Having grown up on a working farm and ranch in Idaho myself, I understand the difficulty of going to Boise to serve in the legislature in the middle of the calving season. Bruce has been able to handle his work as a rancher while serving the constituents of Idaho, without sacrificing the quality of either profession—not to mention his important duties as a family man, the husband of Celia Gould and father of five children. It takes a truly talented man to handle all these responsibilities and continue to have such strong loyalty and respect from colleagues, family, and friends.

Over the 2006 President's Day recess, I had the opportunity to share the floor with Bruce at the Mini-Cassia Lincoln Day Luncheon in Burley, ID, to answer questions from the constituents of Idaho. Bruce fielded all the State-related questions and handled them with impressive knowledge, not to mention a down-home country charm which made complicated issues easy to understand. After seeing Bruce in action with his constituents in his home district, it is easy to understand why he will leave such huge boots to fill when he retires.

Bruce served 20 years in the Idaho House of Representatives, where he held many different leadership roles: majority caucus chairman, assistant majority leader, majority leader, and four terms as speaker of the house. His four terms as speaker marks him as the longest-serving speaker in the Idaho House of Representatives.

Bruce, thank you for your service to our State. You truly are a speaker who speaks for Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, when the 2006 session of the Idaho State Legislature adjourns this year, it will signal the end of an era. The longest-serving speaker of the Idaho House of Representatives will be retiring. Bruce Newcomb, a rancher from Burley, will leave the legislature after a total of 20 years. He spent the past four terms as speaker and leaves boots that will be difficult to fill, to say the least.

Bruce and I served together in the legislature in the late 1980s. My former colleague is a thoughtful man of principle and a terrific sense of humor. Bruce is also one of my closest friends. Over the years, I have worked with him on many issues important to Idaho, and I know that I can always turn to him for solid advice and counsel. His reputation for cooperation and collaboration is well deserved. He consistently seeks out fair and just solutions to policy challenges, even the more contentious and divisive such as water issues and term limits. Nevertheless, Bruce is unafraid to take a respectful but strong stand when circumstances require it. He earned such loyalty among colleagues and coworkers that when he lost his hair in a bout with cancer in the 1990s, many of them shaved their heads in a show of solidarity.

Bruce takes his public service very seriously. Idaho has gained from his wisdom, love for our State and ability to see clearly a path forward. Idaho's legislature is losing a remarkable man who has served all Idahoans faithfully and with excellence. I wish him and his family the very best in retirement, and thank him for his steady, close friendship over the years.

COMBAT METH ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to include in the RECORD an additional comment regarding the Combat Meth Act, which was passed into law earlier this year as part of the USA-PATRIOT Reauthorization Act.

While much has been said about the portions of this bill that address the national meth problem, I wish to highlight the commonsense approach this legislation provides for preventing the diversion of controlled substances.

The Controlled Substances Act requires its registrants to ensure that controlled substances do not fall into the wrong hands in the places where they are manufactured, distributed, or sold. To this end, it has always been the Drug Enforcement Administration's goal to encourage such registrants to investigate fully the backgrounds of potential employees who might have access to such substances, specifically for drug-related criminal convictions.

However, certain State and local privacy laws have had the potential to hamper this objective. These laws frustrate the purpose of the Controlled

Substances Act and the objectives of the Drug Enforcement Administration by, among other things, purporting to prohibit registrants from asking questions relating to an applicant's experience with controlled substances, including whether they have been convicted of drug-related crimes. The real-world implication has been, in a word, nonsensical. In my own State of California, for example, there is a State law that provides that employers are not allowed to question a potential employee about certain drug-related criminal convictions that are older than 2 years. This prohibition also purports to cover employers who are registered under the Controlled Substances Act. If a registrant complied with this State law, it could mean that a responsible pharmacy could hire someone to work at the cash register who would be in a position to divert pharmaceutical products, and the employer would never have any clue about the applicant's past. This runs counter to the purpose of the Controlled Substances Act and undermines the DEA's efforts to prevent the unlawful diversion of controlled substances.

The law we passed clarifies once and for all that registrants can and should fully vet applicants, including asking them about any and all drug-related criminal convictions—not as an infringement on someone's privacy but as a safeguard to ensure that people with access to controlled substances do not pose risks to the public welfare. This legislation makes clear that those on the frontlines of preventing controlled substance diversion have a crucial tool they need to do their job.

RELEASE OF JILL CARROLL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today is a day of great celebration for Jill Carroll, and her friends and family. The Christian Science Monitor reporter and Ann Arbor native was set free today in Baghdad nearly 3 months after being kidnapped in an ambush that killed her translator. The U.S. Embassy is now working hard to reunite Jill with her family as soon as possible.

In Michigan, we all anxiously watched and prayed for the release of this young woman, and I want to express my gratitude to everyone who worked hard for her release. I want to thank the Arab-American and Muslim-American leaders in Michigan and across the country for their hard work.

The Islamic Shura Council of Michigan which represents more than two dozen mosques and Islamic organizations in Southeast Michigan held a press conference publicly calling for her release. The Council on American-Islamic Relations sent a delegation to Baghdad to lobby for her release. The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, The Arab American News and the Congress of Arab American Organizations also issued public statements calling for Jill Carroll's release.